

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) An electricity meter for monitoring electric power consumed from a service line, the electricity meter comprising:
 - a power consumption metering system for measuring the amount of power consumed from the service line, the metering system including a controller for acquiring and data storage for storing power consumption data;
 - a peripheral device providing a non-critical function;
 - a power converter providing an unregulated voltage output at ~~[[the]]~~ terminals of a capacitor for powering the metering system;
 - a load management system selectively coupling and decoupling the peripheral device from the power converter, said load management system sensing the unregulated voltage to determine whether to couple or decouple the peripheral device.
2. (Original) The meter of claim 1 wherein the coupling and decoupling performed by the load management system is controlled by a load control signal the value of which is dictated by the voltage across the capacitor.
3. (Original) The meter of claim 2 wherein the load management system includes an

electrically controlled switch responsive to the load control signal for performing the coupling and decoupling.

4. (Original) The meter of claim 3 wherein the load control signal is generated by the controller.

5. (Original) The meter of claim 4 wherein the controller is resident on a first printed circuit board including the power converter and the peripheral device is present on a second printed circuit board coupled to the first printed circuit board.

6. (Original) The meter of claim 5 wherein the switch is resident on the first printed circuit board.

7. (Original) The meter of claim 5 wherein the metering system is resident on the first printed circuit board.

8. (Original) The meter of claim 1 and further comprising a plurality of peripheral devices and wherein the load management system couples and decouples the plurality of peripheral devices simultaneously.

9. (Original) The meter of claim 8 wherein the controller and power converter are resident on a first printed circuit board and each peripheral device is present on a printed circuit board distinct from but coupled to the first printed circuit board.

10. (Original) The meter of claim 9 wherein the load management system further comprises a switch resident on the first printed circuit board.

11. (Original) The meter of claim 10 wherein the metering system is resident on the first printed circuit board.

12-19. (Canceled)